Vol. II. Numb. 72.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by a Society of GENTLEMEN.

From Wedneſday November 30th. to Friday December 2d. 1709.

N. B. OUR *Quarterly-Books* are now publiſh'd, containing Solutions of divers Curious Queſtions, Serious and Humorous, in Proſe and Poetry, with New Words, relating to the return of the Officers of the Army from the Campaign, ſet to Muſick and all the Parts inſerted, to be had no where but in the ſaid Book. They may be had by Orders left at any of the Coffee-Houſes which take in the *BRITISH APOLLO*.

Q. Gentlemen, *Your Opinion is deſir'd, what our Saviour alludes to, in that Saying of his,* Mat. 24. Ver. 28. For whereſoever the Carcaſs is, there will the Eagles be gather'd together. *A Wager depending, your ſpeedy Anſwer is deſir'd by* D. J. A. B. *Yours,* &c.

A. The *Carcaſs* repreſents the *Jews*, and the Eagles the *Romans*, inaſmuch as the Eagle was the Roma Enſign. Whence the Roman Armies are frequently exhibited by Hiſtorians under the figurative expreſſion of the Roman Eagles. And therefore our Saviour Prophetically tells his Diſciples, that the Obſtinate and Unbelieving *Jews* ſhou'd in all places become a Prey to the Deſtroying *Romans*, whom Providence wou'd make uſe of to Scourge and Chaſtiſe their Infidelity. And this Signal Propheſy was Punctually fulfill'd. At the beginning of the Jewiſh War 20000 *Jews* were Maſſacred in *Cæſarea* at the Inſtigation of *Florus*, the Roman Governor. And at *Alexandria* in *Egypt*, two Roman Legions entirely cut off 50000 of them in one day. What the *Jews* ſuffer'd under *Veſpaſian* and his Son *Titus*, throughout all *Judea*, is too well known to be here Recited. The Emperor *Trajan*, while Purſuing his Eaſtern Expeditions, Reſolv'd utterly to Extirminate the whole Race of the *Jews*, as Perſons more like to Salvage Beaſts than Men, and the common Peſts of Mankind. And the Conſequence of ſuch a Reſolution was, that *Marcius Turbo*, and Many other Generals and Admirals, in Obedience to the Emperor's Commands, ſlew Infinite Numbers of the *Jews*, throughout almoſt all the Eaſtern and Many Weſtern Provinces of the Roman Empire. And what the *Jews* ſuffer'd by the *Romans* under the Conduct of *Julius Severus*, *Adrian*'s General, was little Inferior to their Sufferings under *Titus* and *Veſpaſian*. And as the Siege of *Bether* was the moſt memorable occurrence of the laſt Deplorable War, ſo that City was taken in the ſame Month, wherein *Nebuchadnezzer* had long before ſack'd *Jeruſalem*, and *Titus* afterwards deſtroy'd the Temple of *Herod*; namely, in the Month of *Auguſt*.

Q. *Why is the Emperor of the* Abyſſines *call'd* Preſter John, *and whether Deſcended from* Solomon?

A. Preſter is a Corruption of the word *Presbyter*, a Title formerly belonging to a Powerful Aſiatick Prince, whoſe Kingdom (then a very floriſhing one) conſiſted of the Preſent *Tenduc*, a Province now belonging to the Great *Chan*, the moſt Potent Monarch in the greater *Tartary* who is call'd *Catainus* from *Cataia Tangut*, the Principal Province in his Dominions. This Title has been ſince erroneouſly attributed to that African Emperor. One of the occaſions of this Miſtake may have taken it's Riſe from a Title, which the Emperor of the *Abyſſines* aſſumes to himſelf; namely, that of Succeſſor to St. *Peter* and St. *Paul*, according to the Spirit. For this is his Spiritual Title, as the Son of *Solomon* is one of his Temporal Titles. But tho' that Prince imagines, that he owes his Deſcent to *Solomon* by the Queen of *Sheba* (a Southern Princeſs with reſpect to *Judea*, and call'd by *Joſephus Nazaule*, yet this Conceit is founded upon no Authority. Our Saviour's calling the Queen of *Sheba* the Queen of the *South*, may indeed well comport with the Scituation of the Country of the *Abyſſines*, for the moſt Southern part of the Land of *Canaan* is 30 Degrees and 49 Minutes Diſtant from the Equinoctial Line. Whereas, as the whole Country of *Abyſſina* is within the Tropicks, ſo the moſt Northern part of it is 3 Degrees Diſtant from the Tropick of *Cancer*. Whence the moſt Northern part of *Abyſſina* is 10 Degrees South of the moſt Southern Part of *Canaan*. And the moſt Southern of *Abyſſina*, not only extends to the other Side of the Equator, but alſo to the 14th Degree of Southern Latitude. So that there are 47 Degrees 2 Minutes between the moſt Northern part of *Canaan* (which is Scituated in the 33d Degree and 2d Minute of Northern Lati-

tude) and the moſt Southern part of *Abyſſina*. And tho' our Saviour ſays, that the Queen of the *South* came from the uttermoſt parts of the Earth to hear the Wiſdom of *Solomon*, yet thoſe words alſo may well enough comport with the Scituation of *Abyſſina*, if we conſider the Uſual Figurative Style of Scripture in ſuch Caſes, as alſo that *Abyſſina* is in another Diſtinct Quarter of the World, and a Country very indifferently known to the Ancients. Not that it was Unknown to our Saviour, who, as God, Knew all things. But none can pretend to ſay, in what Particulars his Knowledg was Limited, as he was Man, excepting that Particular ſpecified by himſelf, *viz.* the Knowledg of the Day of Judgment. Tho' yet in the general we are aſſur'd, that his Human Knowledg muſt have neceſſarily been Limited, ſince Omniſcience is incommunible to any other than an Infinitely Perfect Being, as an Incommunicable Attribute of God. But tho' this *Ethiopia* Interior were Perfectly Known to our Saviour, as Man, by Communication from the Divinity, or tho' he ſpake as God-Man, he might yet ſay the words by way of Accommodation to the *Jews*. But however, this can be no Argument of it ſelf in proof of that Emperor's conceit, tho' indeed a Different Scituation of his Country wou'd have been an Unanſwerable Objection to it.

The Abyſſinean Emperor is ſo far from being uſually call'd *Preſter John*, that his common Title is *Naggaſi, a Lord or Governor* ; or *Nagaſcht, King of Kings*.

Q. Gentlemen, *Your Solution of the Queſtion in your* Britiſh Apollo, Numb. 63. *relating to* 40 *Foot Square of Hay, being borrowed, is not to me ſatisfactory, for if* 40 *Foot Square be divided into* 4 *Parts, each Part muſt be* 20 *Foot Square, conſequently if twice* 20 *Foot be paid, it is* $\frac{1}{2}$ *of what was borrowed, whereas your Anſwer is but a Fourth Part. I therefore deſire a further Demonſtration for my better Information, and you'll oblige Yours,* Z. F.

A. Your Objection is groundleſs, for if, as you ſhou'd ſay, it be divided into 4 Equal Parts, each of them will be 40 Feet one way.

Q. *How comes the word* Avernus *to be the Poetical name of* Hell ?

A. Avernus is Poetically us'd for *Hell* by a Synecdoche of the Part for the Whole. For the Poets feign'd, that from that Place (which is a Lake in *Campania* in *Italy*, between *Baiæ* and *Puteoli*, ſtill call'd by the *Italians, Lago d' Averno*) was the Deſcent into *Hell*. They Pretended (and in this they follow'd *Homer*, that Father of the Poets, in his relation of *Ulyſſes*'s Travails) that this Lake was ſo Peſtilential to Birds, that it was immediate Death to fly over it. Whence *Virgil* (in his account of *Æneas*'s Viſit to his Father *Anchiſes* in the Infernal Regions) thus deſcribes it,

Spelunca alta fuit, vaſtoq; immanis hiatu,
Scrupea, tuta lacu nigro nemorumq ; tenebris :
Quam ſuper haud ullæ poterat Impune Volantes
Tendere iter Pennis : talis ſeſe halitus atris
Faucibus effundens ſupra ad convexa ferebat.

Deep was the Cave, and Downward as it went
From the Wide Mouth, a Rocky Rough Deſcent ;
And hereth' Acceſs a gloomy Grove defends ;
And there th' unnavigable Lake extends.
O'er which Unhappy Waters, void of Light,
No Bird Preſumes to ſteer his Airy Flight.
Such deadly Stenches from the depth ariſe,
And ſteaming Sulphur, that infects the Skies.
Dryden.

And from this Peſtilential Quality it deriv'd it's Greek Original. Namely, Ἄορνος, from the Privative *Alpha* α and Ὄρνις, a *Bird*. And therefore *Virgil* adds,

Unde locum Graii dixerunt nomine Avernum.

From hence the Grecian Bards their Legends make,
And give the Name Avernus *to the Lake.*
Dryden.

Q. Gentlemen, *A Diſpute happen'd in Company, viz. that* 19 *Shillings multiplied by* 19 *Shillings, the Pruduct was* 18 *s.* $2\frac{1}{2}$ *qrs. which not conſiſting with the ſmall Knowledge I have in Arithmetick make me beg your Thoughts on the ſame. Your Humble Servant,* S. B.

A. 19 *s.* by 19 *s.* comes to 361 *s.* ſo that he who maintains his 18 *s. &c.* is in an Error.

Q. Gentlemen, *I lately had a large Eſtate fallen to me, and am now enclin'd to marry, before I had little Encouragement to it. Pray inform me the readieſt way to go through the Encounter, for I am in great haſt, being upon the turn of going down Hill in the Road of Life, and therefore have little time to loſe. As for my Perſon it is but ſo ſo ; not very Strait, and but a kind of rough hewen Face, nor can I apprehend what People mean by giving themſelves Airs. My Wit I ſuſpect not to be much, becauſe I can ſay little for it. But I muſt alſo deſire another favor at your hands, which is, in caſe of Denial, how I may come off without any danger to my Quiet, I mean that you would preſcribe a certain Cure for the wounds the Lady's Eyes may make. Upon full ſatisfaction in theſe Points, a Collar of Brawn and a Hamper of Wine is at your Service to keep* Chriſtmas *with.*

A. Since your Circumſtances require ſo much haſt, we adviſe you to draw out all your Forces for the Siege, a Rich Gilt Coach and Six, a ſhining Equipage, a Casket of Jewels for a Preſent, and a good Parcel of Guineas to bribe Inferior Officers, then ſend a Trumpeter *Billet Deux* to ſummon a Surrender, and let the Bearer be commiſſion'd your Plenipotentiary to anſwer all Objections, which are done in one word. If She objects He is *too far in Years*——anſwer, but he has Gold——*His Face will frighten me*——but he has Gold——*His Hump Diſtates me*——But he has Gold——*He is a Blockhead*——But he has Gold——*He is a Clown*——But he has Gold. If after all, She ſends you Defiance, then (to make an honourable Retreat, and to ſecure you from the Danger of all her Artillery) conſider, She muſt either have too little Wit, in not knowing the true Value of Gold, or too much in Contemning of it ; if the firſt, She ſends a Cure her ſelf for the Wounds She gives ; if the laſt, Reaſon will help you to one, by weighing what little Reputation it will give your Judgment, to addreſs a Lady, only to be her Foil, and what ſmall Satisfaction you can propoſe to your ſelf in her Favors, when She deſpiſes your brighteſt Qualification.

Q. *Whether there be any Sin in eating* Roaſt Mutton *upon the* 30*th of* November, *or* Calve's-head *upon the* 30*th of* January ?

A. There is no Sin in ſimply eating any Diſh in Seaſon, and *Mutton* we know is always in Seaſon, as we find by your Queſtion, *Calve's-heads* are, but it is a Fault to do any thing with an Evil Meaning.

Ingenious Gentlemen, *May I have the favor of you to inſert in your next* Weekly-Paper, *whether or no you receiv'd a Letter underſcrib'd* N. N.

A. We receiv'd no ſuch Letter.

POEMS.

Q. *AS You adviſe ſo ſhall my future Years*
Revolve, Alternately enjoying both *Rural*

Rural Diverſions, and thoſe more polite
Alluring Pleaſures of the noxious Town.
Once more in Strains Prolifick deign to give
Your Sacred Dictates, how I ſhall avoid
Contagious Vice, which like Infection reigns,
And thoſe Delights, ſo to partake that free
From all Exceſs, they may my Youth imploy
Without Regret, Anxiety, or Pain.
And in the leiſure hours of early dawn,
And cloſe of Sable Night, beſt time for Thought
And Meditation, ſay, You matchleſs Youths,
What Method's beſt, what Sciences moſt fit,
What Authors moſt improving and polite,
Which may at once pleaſing Amuſements give,
And Univerſal Knowledg to my Soul.

A. To regulate the Conduct of your Life,
And to employ the Momentary Space,
Two ways alone are offer'd to your Choice,
Vertue Preſents the one, the other *Vice.*
Now weigh in *Reaſon's Scale* the worth of both,
Th' Enjoyments, Conſequences and Effects,
The firſt will preſs down to Earth's Center ſoon,
Whilſt th' other's Levity mounts to the Skies.
But in what Sciences to ſpend your Hours, days
To make the Hours of Life ſlide ſmoothly on,
Conſult your *Genius* firſt, your *Station* next,
When they've Inform'd, then *Authors* muſt be ſought,
And Converſe found, may *Poliſh* and *Refine.*

Q. Apollo, at ſev'nteen
A Wife I had got,
But now wiſh that Hanging
Had then been my Lot.
She has Children nine,
Of which I opine,
That two may be mine,
The Reſt I decline,
Nor whoſe they may be,
Can tell more than Thee,
But plainly I ſee,
They're nothing like me;
Yet this with much eaſe I cou'd bear,
Becauſe that I find,
The moſt of Mankind,
My Rivals in Cuckoldom are.

Tho' the Faults of her T——
I ſo well cou'd endure,
Her Tongue is the Dev'l,
And admits of no Cure,
She'll Rant, and ſhe'll Scold,
Like a Termegant Bold,
So practiſed of old,
She'll ne'er be controul'd;
She's a Fury downright,
She'll Grin and ſhe'll Fight,
She'll Scratch and ſhe'll Bite,
And ſometimes all Night.

But that is ſpoke under the Roſe,
She'll be full as Drunk,
As ever was Punk,
And then all her Secrets diſcloſe.

Now, if you're acquainted
With Methods will mend her,
To the Shrine of your Godſhip
I'll ſpeedily ſend her;
Or if me you'll Arm,
With ſome Counter-Charm,
Againſt all the Harm
Of her Fierce Alarm;
Or what is more kind,
A way you will find,
The Knot to unbind,
So ſtrongly we twin'd;
And from the Yoke once ſet me free,
If e'er I adventure
On ſecond Indenture,
Ten thouſand worſe Days may I ſee.

A. Thus to the Phyſician
The Fooliſh apply,
When ſo far they're gone,
They muſt certainly dye.
A Wife you muſt get,
Before you got Wit,
And then in a Fit,
Was ne'er practis'd yet,
Your Strength wou'd apply,
The *Knot* to unty,
But that will defy,
All your Sophiſtry,
Except you will follow this Rule,
What you wiſh'd at firſt,
When your Marriage you curs'd,
You'd Hang your ſelf up for a Fool.

Q. *When I am among*
A Contemptible Throng
Of Men, that are plain dreſs'd and Grave,
I Strut and look Big,
Cock Hat, and throw Wig,
In conceit I am Florid and Brave.

But when I'm abroad,
With a Knight or a Lord,
With a Long Wig, Long Sword, and a Cane,
The Tables are turn'd,
I that before ſcorn'd,
Am all the while with theſe in Pain.

In Opinion contemn
My own Air and Mein,
And ſo damp'd are my Spirits and dull;
But from 'em releas'd,
I come home in haſte,
Am as vain as before to the full.

So

So if your Godhead,
By whom the World's led,
To think you can ſolve all our Doubts,
Can tell me from whence
I've this Humor, your Senſe
Shall be applauded with Huzza's and Shouts.

Hen. Smart.

A. 'Mongſt the Mob you look Big,
With your Cane and your Wig,
Which ſhews you to be one of Thoſe,
Who think all pretenſe,
To Wit and good Senſe,
Is contained in Nothing but Cloaths.

But when to the Eyes,
You appear of the Wiſe,
You quickly diſcover the Nizey,
Your Pride then declines,
Nor your Air longer ſhines,
Obſerving how little they Prize ye.

But if you wou'd know,
Whence the Cauſes all flow,
Of this unaccountable Failure,
The others, by Heav'n,
Were Faſhon'd for Men,
But you were made *One* by a Taylor.

SIR,

LETTERS from Milan, Nov. 23. Inform us, that the Biſhop of Five-Churches is returned from Genoa to Guignolo, a Country-Seat of General Cuſani; but we have no account of his Negociations with the Republick of Genoa. That Miniſter has not been at Turin, as it was reported, but we are told the Count de Taun has received Orders from Vienna to continue here till the return of that Prelate, and 'tis hoped all the Differences with the Court of Turin will be ſoon adjuſted, ſeeing the Courts of Vienna and Barcelona conſent, that the Country of Vigevano with it's Dependencies, be diſmembred from this Dutchy, and given to his Royal Highneſs. Paris, Decem. 2. This Court begins to ſhew their Reſentment againſt the Pope, for his having acknowledged the Archduke for King of Spain, and 'tis ſaid the Moſt Chriſtian King will take ſuch Meaſures in concert with his Grandſon, as will make his Holineſs ſenſible, that he has proceeded in that Affair with too much *Precipitation*. Our Miniſters ſeem ſomewhat diſguſted with thoſe of Spain, upon account of the Trade to the Weſt-Indies, from which they would fain exclude the French Nation; and they have had ſeveral Conferences with the Duke of Alba, Ambaſſador of King Philip, on this occaſion, wherein they have repreſented the dangerous Conſequences the leaſt Miſtruſt and Diffidence between the Two Nations might occaſion in this nice Juncture, where their common Intereſt requires the greateſt Union. Hague, Decem. 6. The Sieur Pettecum is hourly expected from Paris, and then we ſhall certainly know the Reſolutions of France on the Preliminaries of Peace. 'Tis certain that the French flatter themſelves, that the Toubles in the North will prove a favourable Diverſion to their Intereſt. But hitherto we ſee no great cauſe to fear that the Peace of the Empire will be diſturbed upon account of the Invaſion of Schonen; and our laſt Advices from Berlin and Dreſden ſay, that the King of Poland & Pruſſia have given freſh Aſſurances, that they will contribute their utmoſt endeavours for preſerving the common Tranquility of Germany, and promiſe themſelves from the Czar, that he will not attack Pomerania, provided the Swedes do not attack the Daniſh Dominions of the Empire. Which is all from Yours, *&c.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THESE are to certify the Publick, that *Mary Allne*, Daughter of me *Andrew Allen*, living in *Nightingal-lane*, in St. *John's Wapping* near *Eaſt Smith-field London*; having for ſome Time loſt the Sight of one of her Eyes, notwithſtanding all Endeavours to prevent it, 'till hearing of the many Cures perform'd by Mr. *Grant*, OCULIST, in *Thread-Needle-Street*, I committed her to his Care, who in a little Time (by the Bleſſing of God) removed the Cauſe and reſtored her to perfect Sight, and therefore I think my ſelf in Gratitude obliged, for the Honor of Mr. *Grant*, and the Publick Good, to permit this Certificate to be Printed. Witneſs my Hand, *ANDREW ALLEN.*

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